



Marine Safety Office San Diego, CA

Media Advisory

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**USCG San Diego's Sea Marshal Team
Approaches 1000th Boarding**

San Diego – On Tuesday, January 21st, 2003, U. S. Coast Guard San Diego's Sea Marshal Team will conduct its 1000th vessel boarding. This date marks 15 months of successful operations for U.S. Coast Guard San Diego's Sea Marshal program that was implemented to ensure the security of the Port of San Diego.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, the U. S. Coast Guard dramatically increased maritime homeland security efforts including implementing the Sea Marshal program at several ports nationwide to ensure the safety and security of our nation's ports and waterways. U. S. Coast Guard San Diego's Sea Marshal Team, one of the nation's first, was established in October 2001 and immediately became one of the port's leading programs for maritime homeland security. Sea Marshal Team members are armed, highly trained Coast Guard law enforcement officers strategically placed on board deep draft vessels transiting the Port of San Diego to deter and thwart potential terrorist actions.

U. S. Coast Guard San Diego's Sea Marshal Team is currently comprised mostly of Reserve Coast Guard men and women called to active duty. Sea Marshal Team members come from a variety of backgrounds including firefighters, police officers, college students, business owners and prior active duty military, that lend to the team's experience and diversity.

Maritime homeland security continues to be of the highest priority for the U.S. Coast Guard. The integration and accomplishments of the San Diego Sea Marshal Team into U.S. Coast Guard San Diego's multi-mission capability has further enhanced the port security readiness within the Port of San Diego.

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